Grand Royal Arch Chapter.

1855.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, was held at the Masonic Temple, Boston, on Tuesday evening, the 11th of September, A. D. 1855, R. A. M. 2385.

PRESENT:

M.E. and Rev. STEPHEN LOVELL,	Grand High Priest.
M.E. JOSEPH BEDLOW, . .	Deputy Grand High Priest.
E. EBENEZER W. TOLMAN, .	Grand King.
" JOHN MCCLELLAN, . .	Grand Scribe.
Comp. SAMUEL W. GLEASON, .	Gr. Captain of Host, *p. t.*
" ABRAHAM A. DAME, .	Gr. Prin. Sojourner, *p. t.*
" SOLON THORNTON, . .	Grand R. A. Captain.
" PETER C. JONES, . .	Grand Treasurer.
" THOMAS WATERMAN, .	Grand Secretary.
" G. W. SARGENT, . .	Grand Master 3d Vail, *p. t.*
" JAMES KIMBALL, . .	Grand Master 2d Vail, *p. t.*
" W. L. BATCHELDER, .	Grand Master 1st Vail, *p. t.*
" MARTIN W. LONG, . .	Grand Steward.
Rev. LUCIUS R. PAIGE, . .	Grand Chaplain.
Comp. S. K. HUTCHINSON, }	
" DANIEL HARWOOD, }	Committee of Finance.
" EDW'D B. MOORE, . .	Committee of Charity.
" WM. C. MARTIN, . .	Grand Tyler.

Permanent Members.

JOHN B. HAMMATT, E. M. P. WELLS,
ROBERT KEITH, GILBERT NURSE,
WILLIAM EATON.

The following Chapters were represented, viz:—St. Andrew's, King Cyrus, Washington, St. Paul's, Mount Zion, Concord, Mount Horeb, and St. John's.

Comp. Stephen S. Hodge appeared as proxy for M.E. R. S. Spofford, High Priest of King Cyrus Chapter, and took his seat in the Grand Chapter.

The Grand R. A. Chapter was opened in ample form at 7 o'clock, and the records of the last meeting read and approved.

Voted, That Comp. James Kimball, King of Washington Chapter, Salem, be allowed to vote in this Grand Chapter, without wearing his appropriate jewel.

The Committee of Finance then presented their annual report of the receipts and disbursements of the Grand Treasurer during the past financial year.

By the Grand Treasurer's account current, it appears there was a balance in his hands at the last settlement, the sum of	$128 32
He has received from ten Subordinate Chapters agreeably to their respective returns, ...	432 00
Of St. John's Chapter, for a Charter, . . .	90 00
Of Grand Secretary, for Diplomas, ...	14 00
Amounting in the aggregate, to the sum of . .	$664 32
The Grand Treasurer has paid sundry bills against the Grand Chapter, amounting to	$304 43
Boston Masonic Board of Relief, ...	20 00
Donation to Henry Craven, ...	5 00
	$329 43

Balance in the Treasury, ...	334 89
	$664 32

The Committee believe that some additional returns will soon be made by the Subordinate Chapters, which will swell the amount in the Treasury to the respectable sum of five hundred dollars, and upwards. In view of this prosperous state of the finances, the Committee recommend that the Grand Treasurer be directed to invest a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars in the City Script of the city of Boston.

The Committee would also recommend that the Grand Secretary be paid the sum of twenty-eight dollars as a compensation for his services the past year, including his charge for postage, stationery, &c.

The account of the Grand Treasurer is correctly kept and properly vouched, and accompanies this report, of which it forms a part. For his faithful and gratuitous services the past year, the Grand Treasurer is entitled to the thanks of this Grand Chapter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL HARWOOD, } *Committee*
S. K. HUTCHINSON, } *of Finance.*

The foregoing report was unanimously accepted.

M.E. Samuel W. Gleason, High Priest of St. John's Chapter, presented a verbal petition, that the Chapter aforesaid, may be consecrated and its officers installed in due and ancient form, as soon as it shall suit the pleasure of the Grand Chapter. Whereupon, it was *Voted*, That the aforesaid petition be granted, if on examination it shall be made to appear that the officers and members of St. John's Royal Arch Chapter are duly qualified to discharge the duties devolving upon a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

The M.E. Grand High Priest, on retiring from the chair, (his constitutional term having expired,) delivered the following interesting and instructive

ADDRESS:—

To the Officers and Members of the M.E. Grand R. A. Chapter of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:—

M.E. AND E. COMPANIONS:—The onward and rapid roll of time which, by a chain of successive changes, is hastening all human affairs to their grand consummation, has again assembled the representatives of the several Royal Arch Chapters in Massachusetts, in our central Temple, to transact our annual business, to look into the condition of our Order, and to arrange for a new series of Masonic operations. This Grand Chapter is now to elect its officers for the *fifty-eighth* time. The origin of this Body carries us back into the past century. And, as it holds the first rank in the order of time, so should it be our endeavors to make it hold the first rank in the beauty and accuracy of its workmanship, in the health and efficiency of its subordinate branches, and in the harmony and strength of all its operations.

The wisdom, strength and beauty exhibited in the construction of the *First* Masonic Temple, may well call forth the wonder and admiration of all those who are permitted to view that magnificent edifice erected by the workmen in the symbolic degrees. In those degrees may be found food for the most intellectual, scientific and devout minds. Still, it should be our determination to make "the glory of this latter house greater than the former." With all the excellencies of the former, of which every Mason must speak in the highest terms, there still remains an incompleteness—a great deficiency, which can never be supplied, till he who is in pursuit of "that which was lost," finds it beneath the Royal Arch. We have committed to us an important *trust*—secrets to guard and truth to inculcate—imposing on us duties which are neither to be neglected nor undervalued. You will, then, bear with me a few minutes, my companions, while I call your thoughts to some things which I consider all important to the prosperity and usefulness of Royal Arch Masonry, in this State.

ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.

Masonic degrees and membership are designed to make men better; but it is not supposed that these privileges are to be conferred

on the immoral and degraded classes of citizens. It is in this case, as with the church of God. Admission to either, is to be granted, only to those whose character and conduct will reflect honor on the Body to which they apply for rights and privileges. The principles of Masonry, like the principles of christianity, may influence mankind in general; and a good Mason will inculcate them wherever he goes. This is the duty of every good man of any profession. But when one is to be admitted to our confidence, to enjoy our privileges, and to share in our responsibilities, he should be worthy and well qualified. His character should stand above impeachment. The church will not admit bad men with the hope of reforming them; nor should we. The experiment is too hazardous. It should be distinctly understood, that a Mason makes a great profession. He has more light, and it is expected that light will shine, not only in the Lodge, but before the world at large.—Every person who has read a Masonic book, or heard a Masonic address, has a right to expect that whenever he finds a Mason he will find an upright and truly honest man, at least. That is the character we are bound to sustain; and all derelictions from a true standard of morality are a disgrace to our name as Masons, and an impeachment on our profession. A right view of this subject will, therefore, prevent the introduction of men to our ranks, who are influenced by mere curiosity, the persuasions of friends, or a desire for popularity when there happens to be a rush to our outer door. Indeed in the latter case there is always danger. Men are apt to follow with the multitude; and when the multitude move they carry with them an amount of material that can never bear the test of the overseer's square. Such, we fear, has been too much the case for the last two or three years. And unless the strictest caution shall be used in future, we shall find that our increase has been our ruin. Instead of *exalting* men to the enviable position of *Masons*, we shall *level* Masonry so low, that upright men will not esteem it an honor to be enrolled under our banners. Our committees of investigation should be thorough in their inquiries into character, and faithful in their reports.

It may be supposed, however, that these remarks are applicable only to those who apply for *initiation*, and not to those who seek

for *advancement* and *exaltation*; for we find the opinion quite too prevalent, that if a man has already become a Mason, and especially if he has recently been made one, there is very little occasion for further investigation, should he wish to advance further. But this is all wrong. Masonry itself is a selection of individuals from the large mass of mankind; and this selected body is supposed to be far in advance of the great family of men, when taken as a whole. But it is often found, that men become Masons who are quite unfit for that trust. These certainly should not proceed further. It is, then, the business of Royal Arch Masonry, not only to impart new secrets and communicate further important information, but also to form a *more* select Fraternity, admitting men, not because they have obtained Masonic Degrees, but because they have proved themselves *worthy* of those Degrees. A new and strict investigation should therefore be entered into, in case of all applications at the doors of our Chapters. Let it once be understood, that a Royal Arch Mason is but another name for an upright, honest, virtuous individual. No increase of numbers can be a blessing to our Institution, unless this rule be adhered to. Our emblems, ceremonies and instructions all say as much; why then should we be false to ourselves!

MASONIC INFORMATION.

It is really astonishing, and especially so to the old members of our Order, how few Masons, at the present day, are acquainted with the Work and Lectures belonging to the Degrees. Thirty years since, it would be difficult to find a Mason who was not quite familiar with them. Every man, as he advanced from one Degree to another, made it a point to store his mind with all that belonged to them. And he generally succeeded. But it is not so now. Scarcely one man in ten gives special attention to these things. And consequently Freemasonry is undervalued and suffers in the house of its professed friends. A general indifference on this subject seems to prevail, which of course subjects to great discouragement the few who are faithful and expert; and what is yet worse, it renders it very difficult to find properly qualified persons to fill the official chairs. Many of the very best men for office—men

who would do honor to the Institution,—are wholly unqualified, so far as the requisite Masonic knowledge is concerned. This is unhappily the case at this time, with several of our Chapters. A few determined individuals are obliged to bear the burden and heat of the day, because most of their companions, even if they came not in at the eleventh hour, receive their penny for one twelfth part of the labor.

There is evidently a fault with us somewhere, and one that we should strive to correct before the evil becomes greater. Men are hurried on too fast. Making Masons and receiving Degrees appear to be the grand object. An anecdote will illustrate what I mean:

Two highly esteemed companions were not long since in conversation, in regard to the number of Degrees they had taken—both of them had received about *forty*—when one of them said to the other, "I don't believe you can tell the *names* of all the Degrees you have taken."

"If I should," replied the other, "you would not know whether I named them right or not."

It is justice to these two companions, to say, that in some ten or twelve Degrees we know them to be perfectly at *home*. But there are others, even Royal Arch Masons, who could tell no more about the Degrees they have taken, than the two referred to could tell the name of the 28th or the 37th Degree, without asking some one to post them.

Those Masons who take the Chapter Degrees, merely to qualify them to apply for the Orders of Knighthood, and never concern themselves any further with Royal Arch Masonry, have a very wrong idea of the nature of those Degrees, as well as of their own duty and obligations. Every companion should lend his assistance, "so far as he can consistently do the same," to sustain the interests of the Chapter, and of this Order of Masonry; and more care should be taken, than heretofore, to impress these facts and duties on those who may be exalted.

WORK OF THE DEGREES.

The Work and Lectures of Royal Arch Masonry is a subject on which I cannot forbear offering a few thoughts, although I labor

under some embarrassment in saying what I wish, owing to my identity with that subject for the last six years especially; for were I to speak of myself as I should speak of another person thus situated, it would seem like egotism of the most fulsome kind. Being called upon, however, to exhibit the Work as now sanctioned by the General Grand Chapter, before that Body, at its last two sessions, in Boston, and in Kentucky, and having imparted it under the authority of the General Grand High Priest, to persons or Chapters, in behalf of at least nine of the States in the Union, I must be supposed to feel a deep interest in that subject, and an ardent wish to have uniformity and accuracy prevail, not only in all the Subordinate Chapters under the supervision of this Grand Chapter, but also throughout the whole jurisdiction of the General Grand Chapter.

From the resolutions repeatedly passed by this Grand Chapter, and the manner in which the subject has been urged on the Chapters in this Commonwealth, I had hoped, while I had the honor of occupying this chair, to which your partiality and confidence have elevated me for three successive years, to see all these Chapters in perfect possession of the authorized Work and Lectures. But such, I fear, is not the case. I am not aware that more than half of the Chapters have taken any effectual measures to secure that desirable object. Some of them, however, have done well—every thing that could be expected, or perhaps desired.

Massachusetts should certainly lead in this matter. She has had every facility for doing so. But it now appears that New York will take the lead. She has done what, I believe, no other State has done as yet. At the session of the Grand Chapter of the state of New York, some nine or ten months since, a resolution was adopted to have every Chapter in that State put in possession of the authorized Work. Accordingly the Grand High Priest appointed M.E. Sewall T. Fiske, Grand Lecturer, with written directions, first to obtain a certificate from the writer of these remarks, that he had everything correct, and then to visit every Chapter in the State and spend at least one week, in imparting instruction. There are 60 or 70 Chapters in all, I understand.

Comp. Fiske spent several weeks with me in perfecting himself, and then commenced his mission. I have received two letters from him of late. Both of which show that he is doing a great work, and that he is everywhere received with the most cordial approbation.

Why should it not be so in old Massachusetts? As circumstances are, other Grand Chapters send here for the information desired. And yet we who have the means quite within our reach, are behind in the thing so much desired. The attempt to effect uniformity, commenced with this Grand Chapter, by a vote passed in June, 1849, which resulted in the action taken by the General Grand Body the next year, determining what the work was. Shall we then be behind others in carrying out what we had the honor of commencing? No, it should not be so. Something should be done to put things right throughout our entire jurisdiction. We must have *accuracy* and *uniformity*, if we would have efficiency and perpetuity. The work of every Chapter should be inspected, and corrected if erroneous. Let some system of doing this be adopted, without delay; as whatever is now wrong, is constantly growing worse, if neglected.

STATE OF THE CHAPTERS.

It was supposed a year since, that by this time a full statistical account of all the Chapters might be made to this Grand Body. But for various reasons, it has been found impracticable to do it at this time. At a later period of the year it may be done, if desired. That, however, will devolve on other hands, as the present incumbent of this chair has already occupied it the entire constitutional term of three years. It may nevertheless be stated, that Royal Arch Masonry in this State is in a very flourishing condition. Nearly every Chapter has exalted quite a number of companions the past year; and some of them a very large number, perhaps too many. One of the Chapters in this city, more than fifty, and the other nearly as many. At such a time we have need of great care, if we would preserve our purity and power.

Now, my dear companions, permit me to tender you my most hearty and sincere thanks for the honor you have done me by assigning me this responsible position so long, and for the kindness, respect and forbearance with which you have treated me during that period. I leave this chair with no other regret, than that which arises from not having seen so much accomplished by my instrumentality as I had desired. But I hope and believe, that your good judgment and love of the Institution, will lead you to select a man to fill this office, whose heart shall be most ardently attached to these Degrees, whose accurate knowledge of them will enable him to perfect what has been so happily commenced, and whose untiring energies will be devoted to giving to the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts, and to Royal Arch Masonry in general, the rank and position which they are justly entitled to hold.

In closing, let me assure you of my best wishes for your future prosperity.

STEPHEN LOVELL.

At the conclusion of the foregoing Address, it was *Voted*, That the M.E. Grand High Priest, be requested to furnish a copy of the same to be placed upon our records.

Voted to proceed to the choice of officers for the year ensuing. A return of the Grand Chapter being made, it appeared there were twenty-four voters present. M.E. Comps. McClellan, Hutchinson, and Thornton, were appointed a Committee to collect, sort and count the votes, when the following companions were unanimously elected to the respective offices set against their names, viz:

M.E. DANIEL HARWOOD, . . .	Grand High Priest.
M.E. S. K. HUTCHINSON, . . .	Dep. G. High Priest.
E. JONATHAN G. JOHNSON, . .	Grand King.
" ABRAHAM A. DAME, . .	Grand Scribe.
Comp. PETER C. JONES, . .	Grand Treasurer.
" THOMAS WATERMAN, . . .	Grand Secretary.

The officers above named were then duly installed by M.E. Comp. Lovell, Past Grand High Priest.

The M.E. Grand High Priest was pleased to appoint M.E. and Rev. Stephen Lovell, Grand Lecturer of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, for the ensuing Masonic year.

Voted, That the Grand Lecturer be requested to visit the several Chapters under this jurisdiction, and impart such Masonic information as may be necessary to produce uniformity in the work and lectures.

On motion of Comp. McClellan, it was *Voted*, unanimously, That the thanks of the Grand Chapter be presented to M.E. and Rev. Stephen Lovell, for the able and dignified manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of this body during the past three years.

On motion of Comp. Waterman, it was *Voted*, unanimously, That the thanks of the Grand Chapter be presented to M.E. Joseph Bedlow, Past Deputy Grand High Priest, M.E. Ebenezer W. Tolman, Past Grand King, M.E. John McClellan, Past Grand Scribe, for their regular attendance upon the meetings of the Grand Chapter during the past year, and for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Wednesday, 12th September, 1855. The Grand Chapter assembled in accordance with the foregoing vote, and was called from refreshment to labor. The work on the Mark Master's and Most Excellent Master's degrees was rehearsed, and the Grand Royal Arch Chapter closed in ample form.

Attest,

THOMAS WATERMAN,
Grand Secretary.

The following return was made to the General Grand Secretary of the M.E. General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States, viz:

The Annual Meeting of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, was held at the Masonic Temple, Boston, on Tuesday evening, the 11th of September, A. D. 1855, R. A. M. 2385, when the following Grand Officers were duly elected and installed for the ensuing Masonic year, viz:

M.E. DANIEL HARWOOD,	Grand High Priest.
M.E. SAMUEL K. HUTCHINSON,	Deputy Grand High Priest.
E. JONATHAN G. JOHNSON,	Grand King.
" ABRAHAM A. DAME,	Grand Scribe.
" PETER C. JONES,	Grand Treasurer.
" THOMAS WATERMAN,	Grand Secretary.

The following Chapters are under our jurisdiction.

ST. ANDREW'S,	Boston.
KING CYRUS,	Newburyport.
WASHINGTON,	Salem.
ADONIRAM,	New Bedford.
MORNING STAR,	Springfield.
ST. PAUL'S,	Boston.
MOUNT ZION,	Stoughton.
THOMAS,	Fitchburg.
FRANKLIN,	Greenfield.
WORCESTER,	Worcester.
NORTHAMPTON,	Northampton.
CONCORD,	Framingham.
MOUNT HOREB,	Lowell.
SUTTON,	Sutton.
MOUNT LEBANON,	Milford.
ST. JOHN'S,	East Boston.

GRAND R. A. CHAPTER OF MASSACHUSETTS,
BOSTON, 12th October, 1855.

To BENJ. B. FRENCH, Esq., *General Grand Sec'y of the General Grand R. A. Chapter of the United States, Washington, D. C.*

Dear Sir, and M.E. Companion:

I herewith annex and transmit a list of the officers of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, for the current Masonic year, together with a list of the Chapters under our jurisdiction.

I have the honor to be,

Respectfully and fraternally your ob't servant,

THOMAS WATERMAN, *Grand Secretary.*

STATED MEETING.

A Stated Meeting of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, was held at the Masonic Temple, Boston, on Tuesday evening, the 11th December, A. D. 1855, R. A. M. 2385.

PRESENT:

M.E. DANIEL HARWOOD, . .	Grand High Priest.
E. JONATHAN G. JOHNSON, .	Grand King.
M.E. STEPHEN LOVELL, . .	Grand Scribe, *pro tem.*
Comp. WM. H. L. SMITH, . .	Grand Captain of the Host.
" HENRY EARL, . .	Gr. Prin. Sojourner, *p. t.*
" SOLON THORNTON, . .	Grand R. A. Captain.
" SAMUEL W. GLEASON, .	Grand Master 3d Vail, *p. t.*
" HORACE CHENERY, . .	Grand Master 2d Vail, *p. t.*
" MARTIN W. LONG, . .	Grand Master 1st Vail, *p. t.*
" EBENEZER W. TOLMAN, .	Grand Treasurer, *pro tem.*
" THOMAS WATERMAN, .	Grand Secretary.
" WENDELL T. DAVIS, } " EDWARD B. MOORE, }	Committee of Charity.
" WM. C. MARTIN, . .	Grand Tyler.

Permanent Members.

PAUL DEAN,	THOMAS TOLMAN,
ROBERT KEITH,	E. M. P. WELLS,
JAMES W. CROOKS,	HORACE CHENERY,

JOHN MCCLELLAN.

The following Chapters were represented, viz:—St. Andrew's, King Cyrus, Washington, Morning Star, Franklin, St. Paul's, Mount Zion, Worcester, Concord, Mount Lebanon, and St. John's.

Comp. Wm. L. Batchelder appeared as proxy for E. Nathaniel Pitman, Scribe of Washington Chapter, and Comp. Isaac P. Seavy as proxy for M.E. R. S. Spofford, High Priest of King Cyrus Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was opened in ample form at seven o'clock, and the records of the last stated meeting read.

Voted, That the representatives from Morning Star, Concord, Worcester, and Mount Lebanon Chapters, be allowed to sit and vote in the Grand Chapter this evening, without their appropriate jewels.

Comp. Weh Bah Goosh, Principal Chief of the Seven United Tribes of Indians, was introduced to the Grand Chapter, and received a cordial welcome from the M.E. Grand High Priest.

The petition of Wm. Knapp, Charles. A. Davis, Edwin Barnes, Slade Luther, Patrick Murray, Wm. E. P. Haskell, William Goodwin, Thomas C. Savory, and Robert Lash, for authority to establish a new Royal Arch Chapter, to be located at Chelsea, by the name of "The Chapter of the Shekinah," was presented and referred to a Committee consisting of M.E. Comps. Robert Keith, E. M. P. Wells, and John McClellan, to consider and report. This Committee subsequently reported that the prayer of the petitioners aforesaid ought to be granted, and this report was unanimously accepted.

The subject of authorizing the Grand Lecturer to visit the several Subordinate Chapters under this jurisdiction for the purpose of imparting such Masonic knowledge as may be found necessary, was brought before the Grand Chapter and fully discussed, after which it was *Voted*, That the whole matter in relation to this subject, be referred to the Council of the Grand Chapter, with full power to act in the premises.

Voted, That the sum of twenty-five dollars be granted to the Boston Masonic Board of Relief, to be expended in charity.

Voted, That the sum of ten dollars be granted to our visiting Comp. Weh Bah Goosh, and that the Grand Treasurer be authorized to pay the same.

Voted, That the Grand Secretary be authorized to procure three hundred copies of the Rules and Regulations of this Grand Body, and five hundred blank returns for the use of the Grand Chapter.

M.E. Comp. Stephen Lovell, was appointed a Committee with authority to cause to be printed two hundred copies of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

Voted, That it shall hereafter be the duty of the Subordinate Chapters under this jurisdiction, immediately after their annual election, to forward to this Grand Body a correct list of their officers so elected. The Grand Secretary was directed to notify all the Subordinate Chapters of the foregoing vote.

The following appointments were announced from the chair, and approved by the Grand Chapter, viz:

Comp. Wm. H. L. Smith, . .	Gr. Captain of the Host.
" Solon Thornton, . .	Grand Principal Sojourner,

Comp. Isaac P. Seavey, . .	Grand R. A. Captain.
" George W. Sargent, .	Grand Master 3d Vail.
" James A. Maynard, .	Grand Master 2d Vail.
" James G. Henderson, .	Grand Master 1st Vail.
Rev. William Horton, }	Grand Chaplains.
" Wm. R. Alger, }	
Comp. Edward B. Moore, .	Senior Grand Steward.
" Chester Sanderson, .	Junior Grand Steward.
" William Parkman, }	Committee of Finance.
" John McClellan, }	
" Wyzeman Marshall, }	
" William C. Martin, .	Grand Tyler.

The officers above-named were duly installed by the M.E. Grand High Priest.

Proclamation was then made by the Grand Captain of the Host, that the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts was duly organized for the ensuing year.

Voted, That the Grand Chapter be now called from labor to refreshment until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday, 12th December. The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 9 A. M., the lectures on the Mark, the Past Master's, and Most Excellent Master's degrees were given, and the Grand Chapter closed in ample form.

Attest,

THOMAS WATERMAN,
Grand Secretary.

SPECIAL MEETING.

A Special Meeting of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, was held at Mason's Hall, East Boston, on Friday evening, 29th of February, A. D. 1856.

PRESENT:

M.E. DANIEL HARWOOD,	Grand High Priest.
M.E. SAM'L K. HUTCHINSON,	Deputy Grand High Priest.
E. JONA. G. JOHNSON,	Grand King.
" ABRAHAM A. DAME,	Grand Scribe.
" JOHN MCCLELLAN,	Grand Treasurer, *pro tem.*
" WM. W. BAKER,	Grand Secretary, *pro tem.*
Comp. WM. H. L. SMITH,	Grand Captain of the Host.
" SOLON THORNTON,	Gr. Principal Sojourner.
" CHAS. W. MOORE,	Grand R. A. Captain, *p. t.*
" EDW'D B. MOORE,	Grand Master 3d Vail, *p. t.*
" CHESTER SANDERSON,	Grand Master 2d Vail, *p. t.*
Rev. STEPHEN LOVELL,	Grand Chaplain, *pro tem.*

This meeting was specially convened for the purpose of consecrating St. John's Royal Arch Chapter, and installing its officers.

A Committee having been appointed by the M.E. Grand High Priest to visit St. John's Royal Arch Chapter and make the necessary examination previous to its consecration, submitted the following report, viz:

BOSTON, February 29th, 1856.

To the M.E. Grand High Priest,
of the Grand R. A. Chapter of Massachusetts:

M.E. COMPANION:—The undersigned having been honored with your appointment as a Committee to examine the *work*, by-laws and records of St. John's Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at East Boston, beg leave to make the following returns:

We have attended to the duty assigned us according to usage, and the Regulations of the Grand Chapter, *in open Chapter*, and find the by-laws correct, and the doings of the Chapter fairly recorded. We are happy to say, that the work and lectures are in perfect accordance with the decisions of the Grand and General Grand Chapters on this subject, and the board of officers we find

to be efficient and well skilled in their duties. It is therefore the opinion of your Committee, that St. John's Chapter should be duly organized under a Charter, and that the same would be for the good of Royal Arch Masonry.

All which is respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN LOVELL,
JOHN MCCLELLAN, } *Committee.*
E. B. MOORE,

The foregoing report was approved; the Charter read, and St. John's Royal Arch Chapter consecrated in ample form, and the following companions duly installed into their respective offices, viz:

M.E. SAMUEL W. GLEASON,	High Priest.
E. ISRAEL F. CRAFTS,	King.
" DAVID BRIGGS,	Scribe.
" MERRILL PETTENGILL,	Treasurer.
" GEORGE BUTTS, by Comp. Felch, proxy.	Secretary,

The usual proclamation was then made by the Grand Captain of the Host. The M.E. Grand High Priest made a short address, and the proceedings of the meeting closed with prayer by the M.E. and Rev. Comp. Lovell.

Copy of the minutes.

Attest,

THOMAS WATERMAN,
Grand Secretary.

STATED MEETING.

A Stated Meeting of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, was held at the Masonic Temple, in

Boston, on Tuesday evening, the 11th of March, A. D. 1856, R. A. M. 2386.

PRESENT:

M.E. SAMUEL K. HUTCHINSON,	Deputy Grand High Priest.
E. JONATHAN G. JOHNSON, .	Grand King.
" ABRAHAM A. DAME, . .	Grand Scribe.
Comp. WM. H. L. SMITH, . .	Grand Captain of the Host.
" SOLON THORNTON, . .	Gr. Principal Sojourner.
" SAMUEL W. GLEASON, .	Grand R. A. Captain, *p. t.*
" JAMES KIMBALL, . .	Grand Master 3d Vail, *p. t.*
" JAMES A. MAYNARD, .	Grand Master 2d Vail.
" SAMUEL MILLARD, . .	Grand Master 1st Vail, *p. t.*
" PETER C. JONES, . .	Grand Treasurer.
" THOMAS WATERMAN, .	Grand Secretary.
Rev. WILLIAM HORTON, .	Grand Chaplain.
" STEPHEN LOVELL, . .	Grand Lecturer.
Comp. EDWARD B. MOORE, .	Senior Grand Steward.
" CHESTER SANDERSON, .	Junior Grand Steward.
" JOHN MCCLELLAN, . .	Committee of Finance.
" WM. C. MARTIN, . .	Grand Tyler.

Permanent Members.

ROBERT KEITH, WINSLOW LEWIS,
JOHN R. BRADFORD, HORACE CHENERY,
HENRY EARL.

The following Chapters were represented, viz:—St. Andrew's, King Cyrus, Washington, Franklin, St. Paul's, Mount Zion, Worcester, Mount Horeb, and St. John's.

The Grand Chapter was opened in due form at 7 o'clock, and the record of the last meetings read and approved.

A circular from the Grand Chapter of Mississippi, recommending the procuring of Masonic statistics, was received and read, and referred to a Committee consisting of M.E. Comps. S. Lovell, P. C. Jones, and W. T. Davis, to consider and report.

M.E. Comp. Lovell, who was appointed a Committee at the last stated meeting, to superintend the printing of the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter, reported progress, and was granted further time.

The Grand Treasurer, who was authorized to invest the surplus funds of the Grand Chapter, reported that he had invested the sum of five hundred dollars in the stock of the National Bank, and one hundred dollars in the stock of the Eliot Bank, and this report was accepted.

On motion of M.E. Comp. Lovell, it was *Voted*, That the several Chapters under this jurisdiction be requested to give their special attention to the 23d Article of the Regulations of this Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Wednesday, 12th March. The Grand Chapter was called from refreshment to labor at 10 A. M., the work and lectures on the several degrees were given, and the Grand Chapter closed in due form.

Attest,

THOMAS WATERMAN,
Grand Secretary.

STATED MEETING.

A Stated Meeting of the M.E. Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, was held at the Masonic Temple, Boston, on Tuesday evening, 10th of June, A. D. 1856, R. A. M. 2386.

PRESENT:

M.E. DANIEL HARWOOD, .	Grand High Priest.
M.E. SAM'L K. HUTCHINSON, .	Deputy Grand High Priest.
E. JOHN MCCLELLAN, .	Grand King, *pro tem.*
" ABRAHAM A. DAME, .	Grand Scribe.
M.E. STEPHEN LOVELL, .	Gr. Captain of Host, *p. t.*
Comp. SOLON THORNTON, .	Gr. Principal Sojourner.
" WM. L. BATCHELDER,	Grand R. A. Captain, *p. t.*
" GEO. W. SARGENT, .	Grand Master 3d Vail.
" JAMES A. MAYNARD,	Grand Master 2d Vail.
" HENRY EARL, .	Grand Master 1st Vail, *p. t.*
" THOMAS WATERMAN,	Grand Secretary.
" CHESTER SANDERSON,	Junior Grand Steward.
" WILLIAM PARKMAN,	Committee of Finance.
" WILLIAM C. MARTIN,	Grand Tyler.

Permanent Members.

JOHN B. HAMMATT, EDW'D A. RAYMOND,
SAMUEL MILLARD, JAMES W. CROOKS,
ROBERT KEITH.

The following Chapters were represented, viz:—St. Andrew's, Washington, Morning Star, Franklin, St. Paul's, Mount Horeb, and St. John's.

The Grand Chapter of Massachusetts was opened in due form, the record of the last meeting read and approved.

Voted to accept the invitation of the Fraternity at Springfield, to attend the celebration of the festival of St. John the Baptist, in that city on the 24th of June inst.

The Grand Secretary gave notice that in conformity with a vote passed at the stated meeting in December last, he had procured the printing of three hundred copies of the Regulations of the Grand Chapter, and that the same were now ready for distribution among the members.

Voted, That the Grand Secretary be directed to furnish each Subordinate Chapter with two copies of the Regulations aforesaid.

A petition from sundry Royal Arch Masons, praying for authority to organize and hold a Chapter at Hyannis, to be called "Oriental R. A. Chapter," was presented by Comp. Baxter, and referred to Comps. Henry Earl, E. A. Raymond, and Solon Thornton, to consider and report. This Committee subsequently reported, that inasmuch as the petition aforesaid was not in conformity with the Regulations in such case made and provided, and for this reason only, it could not be entertained by this Grand Chapter, and this report was accepted.

A circular from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Maine, relating to the subject of International Masonic Correspondence, was received and committed to M.E. Comps. S. K. Hutchinson, J. G. Johnson, and A. A. Dame.

M.E. Comp. Stephen Lovell, in behalf of the Committee appointed to print the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter, reported progress, and the Committee was granted further time.

M.E. Comp. Lovell, in behalf of the Committee to procure Masonic Statistics, reported progress, and at his request, this Committee was granted further time.

It having been stated that the Triennial Meeting of the General Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the United States would be held in Hartford, Conn., in September next, on the same day for holding the annual meeting of this Grand Chapter, it was *Voted*, That the election of officers be postponed to the second Tuesday of October next, and that this Grand Chapter be adjourned to that day, in order that this Grand Body may be fully represented by its officers in the General Grand Chapter.

Voted, That the Grand Lecturer, M.E. Stephen Lovell, be authorized to attend the meeting of the General Grand Chapter, in September next, and that his expenses, together with those of the Grand High Priest, to and from Hartford, be paid by this Grand Chapter.

The Grand Chapter was then called from labor to refreshment until 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Wednesday, June 11, 1856. The Grand Chapter, at 10 o'clock, was called to labor by M.E. Samuel K. Hutchinson, Deputy Grand High Priest.

The Grand Lecturer then exhibited the work, and gave the lectures of the Mark and Royal Arch degrees. The Grand Chapter was closed in due form at 1 o'clock, P. M.

Attest,

THOMAS WATERMAN,
Grand Secretary.

The Stated Communications are held in Boston, on the Tuesday next preceding the second Wednesday in March, June, September and December. The Massachusetts Convention of High Priests hold their meetings in Boston, on the same days.

Communications to the Grand Chapter may be directed to THOMAS WATERMAN, Grand Secretary, Boston.